

I would like to make a statement on the so called 'Oppositions' 'Morse Proceeding' Reconsideration Petitions # 05-235. I have been a amateur radio operator since 1991, just after the original 'no code technician' license was made available. This happened while I was studying for my license and was not the reason I chose to get my license. Now while I can certainly understand the commissions reasoning behind dropping the code for ALL licensees, I believe that the commission should of retained it for the highest license class. I believe it should have been retained not at 5 wpm but at 20 wpm. Listening to code at 5wpm is a painfully slow ordeal that only serves the purpose as to learn the characters only. Trying to carry on a conversation at 5wpm is counter productive, only CW sent at 10wpm or faster is of any use for general conversations.

I currently hold a Extra class license, I took the novice, technician, general, advanced and extra written exams; along with the 5,13 and 20 wpm code tests, I am also a VE for the ARRL and W5YI. I can assure you it was NO burden to administer these exams. It's been my experience that when someone works hard for something, they tend to value it more. And that removing the code for extra, removed a barrier that while difficult for some, is NOT a impassible barrier. If it were up to me, I would of left the amateur radio service as a 4 tier system.

1. Technician (no-code)
2. General (no-code)
3. Advanced 13wpm
4. Extra 20wpm

The whole point of getting more privileges is to put more effort in something you will value, and in most cases, makes a better amateur radio operator. Now while I welcome any new amateur radio operator to our ranks, I feel the commission shouldn't have jumped off the cliff with the rest of the worlds nations, regardless of the ITU ruling on CW.

Craig - N7UQA